GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:545
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007
SHORTAGE OF SCIENTISTS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country faces an alarming shortage of scientists because of their leaving for better pay packages offered by the Multi National Companies (MNCs) and private sector and also due to the retirement age of 60 years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide better facilities and perks to the scientists and to encourage young students in schools and colleges?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) No Sir. The mobility of scientists from the research and academic institutions to Multi National Companies (MNCs) and private sector is a global phenomenon and is triggered by various factors including better financial and career prospects. However, considering our goals and ambitions, country as a whole requires a larger number of scientists for its transformation into a developed nation by the year 2020.

(b)Government has framed policies and various schemes to provide better facilities and opportunities to the scientists and to encourage young students in schools and colleges to pursue science in the country.The various measures taken from time to time are:

Policies :

Science and Technology Policy, 2003.

Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plans.

Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to S&T institutions

improve working conditions of scientists.

School centric programmes to attract school children:

Children Science Congress.

U-PROBE (Introducing meteorology in schools).

National Science Olympiad Programme.

Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY).

CSIR Programme on Youth for Leadership in Science (CPYLS).

Programmes targeted towards young scientists:

Swarnajayanti Fellowships.

Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists.

SERC Visiting Fellowships.

SERC Schools in emerging areas of science and technology.

Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology

(BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions.

Mission HOPE (Higher Education − Opportunities for Promoting Entrepreneurship) with the aim of converting aspirations to real enterprises (CARE).

Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R&D as a career.

Junior/Senior research fellowships, research associateships and senior research associateships.

Diamond Jubilee Research Interns Award Scheme, JRF-GATE and Entrepreneurship support to research scholars.

Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young undergraduate students in Engineering and Technology/Pharmacy/ Architecture, etc. to take

teaching as their career.

S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.

Women Scientists Scheme.

Programmes targeted towards performing scientists :

The Ramanujan Fellowships. The JC Bose National Fellowships.

The Ramanna Fellowships.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships.

SERC Individual Projects.

Financial assistance to scientists to participate in international conferences and training programmes

Opportunities to distinguished scientists and technologists of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T.

Post-doctoral Fellowships in Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

Infrastructure development programmes:

Intensification of Research in High Priority Areas (IRHPA).

Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST).

Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.

Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.